

Western Avenue Claims Third Victim REDS HIT BY REFUSAL TO ALLOW CHECK-OFF

EDITED in Torrance — PRINTED in Torrance — OWNED by Torrance Folks — SINCE 1914

TORRANCE HERALD

36th YEAR — No. 32

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1950

24 PAGES

Council In Blast At Union

Torrance City Council Tuesday night launched its own little campaign against Communism by instructing the City Clerk to cease deducting union dues from city employees' checks.

On a four-to-one vote, Councilman Nick Draie dissenting the council ordered City Clerk A. H. Bartlett to stop deducting dues of members of the United Public Workers of America.

The action followed a motion by Councilman Willys G. Blount who told the other members of the council and audiences: "We are at present in the midst of absorbing war where American boys are fighting and dying to try in some measure to combat the inroads of Communism. I would like to move that the City Clerk to discontinue the collection of union dues for local No. 360, United Public Workers of America, until such time as the city employee members have severed their affiliation with the United Public Workers of America who have been declared to be Communist controlled."

Action by the local council followed that recently taken by the city of Los Angeles which also ordered the stoppage of the "check-off" system for the benefit of the UPW.

Affected by the council's action are approximately 68 of the 150 city workers. They are largely employed in the street, bus, and park departments.

Under the new set-up the workers will have to pay their

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Food Employers To Discuss New Clerks' Contract

With indications that the current food employers-clerks union contract will be reopened, a meeting has been called for Wednesday, August 23, at 7:30 p.m. in the Torrance City Hall of all food employers and especially those with contracts with Retail Clerks' Union, Local 905.

The union has indicated it will reopen the current food agreement which expires November 1, 1950, according to Frank S. Selover, executive secretary, Harbor Area Employers' Council. The attitude and stand of the employers toward the contract will be discussed, he said. Official notice of reopening of the contract must be given by September 1.

While the meeting is sponsored by the organized employers who comprise the Food Division of the Harbor Area Employers' Council and who employ 87 per cent of the food market owners, including non-members, are invited to participate in the meeting, according to Selover.

Jurisdiction of Retail Clerks Local No. 905 was extended this year to include all territory south of Imperial highway, between Alameda boulevard and Crenshaw boulevard, excluding central Compton, but including in addition all of Torrance south of 190th street, the Employers' Council executive secretary said. All food employers in this area are being asked to attend the meeting.



ANOTHER TRAFFIC VICTIM . . . Western avenue's third traffic victim since its opening is here being lifted into an ambulance before being rushed to Harbor General Hospital last Thursday afternoon. Alma G. Watson, 49, died Saturday morning without regaining consciousness. (Herald photo.)

Western-Carson Crash Victim Dies 48 Hours After Smashup

Recently completed Western avenue claimed its third traffic victim last week when a 49-year old Torrance man died of injuries received when struck at the intersection of Western and Carson streets Thursday afternoon.

Alma Gerlad Watson, of 1532 West 228th street, died in Harbor General Hospital Saturday morning without regaining consciousness after his motor-powered bicycle and an automobile collided in the intersection Thursday.

It was necessary to call an ambulance down from Gardena to take the injured man to the hospital Thursday when it was found that all of the vehicles of Sullivan's Ambulance Service of Torrance were out on emergency calls. City and county ambulances will not respond to accident calls in this area.

Watson suffered a skull fracture, concussion, cuts and bruises when his bicycle apparently swerved into a car driven by Mrs. Margaret Wines, 65, of 1517 East Colon street, Wilmington. She was not held police said.

A native of Provo, Utah, Watson had been employed at the Stauffer Chemical Company and Doak Aircraft since coming to Torrance eight years ago.

Funeral services were held in Stone and Myers Chapel here Tuesday afternoon by members of Torrance Ward of the Church of the Latter Day Saints, of which Watson was a member. His body was shipped to Mesa, Ariz. yesterday, where burial will be made in the Mesa cemetery.

SURVIVORS LISTED

Surviving Watson are his father, Charles E. Watson, of Mesa, Ariz.; three sisters, Eva Johnson, of Mesa; Erya Quist, of Arco, Idaho and Mary Anderson of Compton.

Also surviving are three brothers, Sanders, of Venice, Calif.; Clyde of Bountiful, Utah and Leroy of Austin, Tex.

Watson's death on Western avenue was added to those of Betty Lerche and Mrs. Dorothy Bain, who were earlier vic-

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Bus Line Losing \$1000 a Month To Continue Run

Bus service to Hollywood Riviera and Seaside Ranchos, operating at a \$1000 a month loss to the city, was ordered continued by the City Council Tuesday night.

The action completely reversed the stand taken by the Council several weeks ago. At that time it voted unanimously to discontinue the line at WALTERIA as per recommendation of the Transportation Commission.

The commission, headed by Councilman Willys G. Blount, made the recommendation after studying the findings of Marshall A. Chamberlain, manager of the municipal lines.

SMALL LOADS

Chamberlain's report indicated the line was losing \$1000 a month—averaging one and a half persons per trip to Hollywood Riviera and only one per trip to Seaside Ranchos. Some of the trips carried only the postman who rides free.

Councilman Blount said: "It would cost the city less to run a taxi up the hill than it does the city buses."

The action Tuesday night was a climax to a move by Councilman Nick Draie at the last meeting of the city fathers. Draie moved the line be continued because "I feel the people of Hollywood Riviera should have a bus line in the area."

MAYOR AGREES

Voting to continue the line Tuesday night were Mayor Bob L. Haggart, Councilman George Powell and Draie. Councilman Harvey B. Spelman Jr. and Blount voting no.

Chamberlain said that present plans to change the Hollywood Riviera-Seaside run as well as those to Harbor City and Hawthorne would be postponed for another month pending further reworking.

Richard Cope in Korean

In the thick of the Korean campaign is Richard L. Cope, fireman, USN, of 2221 Maricopa street, a crew member of a Naval aircraft carrier which is spearheading Navy attacks against Korean Communist forces, Navy reports indicate.

NEW BANK FACE WOULD STOP A CLOCK--AND DID

It wasn't the old face of the Torrance National Bank that stopped the clock—it was the new face!

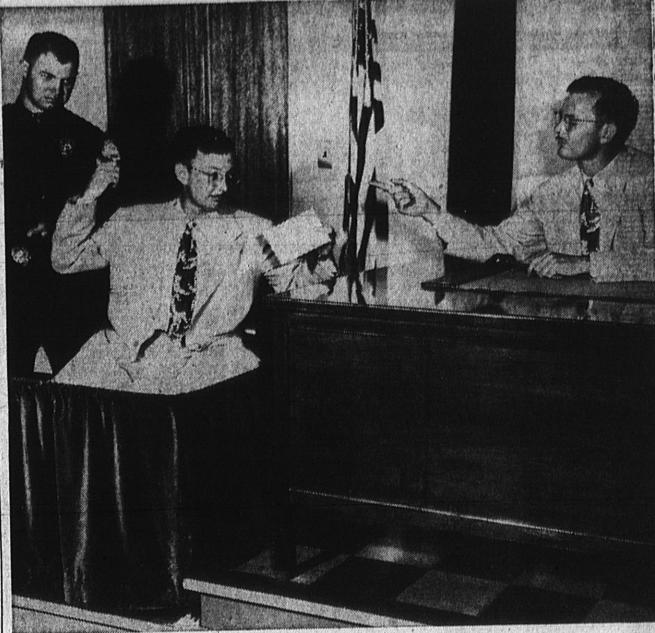
Lunch-time clock watchers who have been accustomed to timing their return to work by the huge corner clock of the Torrance National Bank were the first to notice—and complain that the large timepiece had stopped.

It is off and probably will be as long as electricians and other craftsmen are working on the \$15,000 job of remodeling the local bank, according to Wallace Post, president of the bank.

The work, which has resulted in the clock stoppage, includes a new bookkeeping room, new suspended ceiling, floors, entrance and other alterations. The remodeling job will take approximately two months, Post said.



UNLOADED . . . Fran Munsterman, of 1399 Sartori avenue, pulls one of the 50-pound bags of diacilite from the roof of his 1946 Buick while Police Sgt. Bill Evans gathers some notes about how it all happened. Fran said he has just parked his car across from National Supply on Carson street yesterday afternoon and had walked away when the truck loaded with 14 tons of the diatomaceous earth came apart. George Sergiadis, of Los Angeles, was driving the truck from Dicalite's WALTERIA plant to Los Angeles when the load came loose and smashed down on Munsterman's car.—(Herald Photo.)



PATROLMAN "TEX" BEAL, CITIZEN SHIDLER AND JUDGE SHIDLER
... A Bit of a Predicament

Photo by Lee Weinstein

'Mercy Mercy' Judge Pleas

A plea for mercy is the only solution Judge John A. Shidler finds as a way to solve this predicament.

Last week, Patrolman "Tex" Beal, during his regular rounds, placed a ticket upon the windshield of an auto that had worn out its two-hour welcome next to the curb.

Later, much to Beal's and

Judge Shidler's embarrassment, the auto turned out to be Shidler's.

What turned out to be even more embarrassing for the Justice of the Gardena Court, was that the ticket was the fourth such citation for the busy jurist.

Shidler was slated to appear before City Judge Otto B. Willett. But Judge Willett is in the east attending the funeral of

his father.

Assigned to take his place—

Judge Shidler. This puts citizen Shidler before Judge Shidler—a feat a bit tricky to accomplish even with mirrors.

Says Citizen Shidler, about his forthcoming court appearance today, "I can only throw myself upon the mercy of the court—and expect none."

Gardena Makes Bid For Mail Delivery To North Torrance

Probe by Grand Jury May Hit Election Boards

That election officers for at least two Torrance precincts would be questioned in connection with a Grand Jury investigation demand of the last Council election was held likely this week by county officials.

Though the officials did not wish to be quoted that there would or would not be a Grand Jury investigation, the officials did indicate that a letter sent to the jury had been ordered investigated.

If further questioning reveals grounds for a jury investigation the Grand Jury likely will call election board officials from Precincts No. 7 and No. 21 to determine the possibility of any criminal tampering.

The letter asking for the Grand Jury investigation was signed by one man—unidentified by county officials. A similar letter asking for jury intervention in the recent council election was presented for signatures at a meeting in the home of Addis Thomas, 22401 Ocean avenue, Thursday. The letter was signed by several of the attending meeting including Howard J. Percy, local realtor, and Mrs. Mary Louis Owens, editor of the Peninsula Press.

The demand for investigation was apparently based on facts brought out during the Superior Court recount action brought by Victor E. Benstead, loser in the council race by seven votes, and Nick Cucci, Benstead's campaign manager.

One demand for a Grand Jury investigation came from Councilman Nick Draie at a council meeting following the Superior Court recount.

During the recount, discrepancies in precincts No. 7 and No. 15 were disclosed, which increased the lead of incumbent, Councilman Willys G. Blount, over Benstead by 17 votes.

During the recounting of the ballots in Superior Court it was discovered that in precinct No. 7 the figure 98 was recorded instead of 89—believed to have been a transcription, which was corrected favored, Blount. In precinct No. 21 the figure 87 was written instead of 51—also favoring Blount. It is these discrepancies which the Grand Jury investigators are likely to question if the formal demand for an investigation is made.

With the promise of twice-a-day delivery, several hundred residents of North Torrance were duped into having their mail delivered by the Gardena Post Office, an investigation revealed this week.

Affected by the switch over were the homes in the extreme northeasterly section of the city bounded roughly by 190th street, Arlington avenue, 168th street, Crenshaw boulevard, and Redondo Beach boulevard.

NO COMMENT

Mrs. Clara Conner, postmaster of Torrance, said she had been informed of the Post Office Department's intention to transfer the area to Gardena but was not at liberty to discuss the matter.

Questioning of several signers of a petition circulated by Gardena, revealed that the residents were under the impression they would receive twice-daily mail delivery if they agreed to have their mail handled through Gardena. However, a recent postal service curtailment has limited residential deliveries to one a day. The order was nation-wide.

OPPOSITE EFFECT

Believing the change-over would increase their service, the switch-over is likely to result in just the opposite effect, it was discovered. Residents who live in Torrance will have to inform their correspondents to address their mail in care of Gardena. That mail which is addressed to Torrance will first come here then be rerouted, causing a full

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Federal Funds Sought By City For Water Plans

Federal aid in the amount of \$60,000 is being sought by the city to cover the cost of engineering the proposed water department expansion, City Manager George W. Stevens said this week.

He said that the city is preparing an application to be presented to the government for the loan. The fund would enable the city to proceed with detailed plans for the \$2,000,000 expansion program as recommended in a recent water system survey.

Stevens said that the engineering on the proposed project would be a pre-requisite to determining the exact amount of a bond issue as proposed in the Montgomery survey.

The loan would be repaid to the federal government out of monies allotted from the proposed bond issue. The bonds would be self-repaying with the source of revenue being raised from the sale of water to future subscribers.

The voting of the bonds largely would be a mere matter of formality since there would be funds raised through taxation.

Couple Win Right to Operate Dairy

In the opinion of Superior Court Judge Julius V. Patrosso, the city cannot stop Mr. and Mrs. Peter Nuccio from operating a dairy in North Torrance.

In a memorandum decision handed down last week, Judge Patrosso stated that he found that there had been no discontinuance of the nonconforming use of the dairy and therefore the Nuccios were entitled to pursue their business. The property located at 3300 West 182nd street.

The city maintained that the Nuccios had ceased to operate the dairy as such. This constituted grounds for denying the permit since the area was no longer zoned for such types of business, City Attorney C. Douglas Smith held.

Don Armstrong, local attorney representing the Nuccios, maintained that the sale of a herd of milk cows which took

place while the dairy was changing management did not constitute an abandonment of the dairy.

The trial climaxed a series of complex moves in which the city granted the permit, and then recalled it. The issue was also stormy politically. Granting of the permit by the City Council over the recommendation of the Planning Commission was one of the factors which caused A. D. Gianni, chairman of the Planning Commission, to resign from the planning body, he said.